Area with Pesticides Detected in Well Water

The land area where pesticide use is regulated by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) following pesticide detections in well water samples has steadily increased since 1988. As of 2003, this area totaled approximately 560 square miles. However, the rate at which new sections of land have been added has decreased in recent years.

This lower rate is related to a decrease in the number of wells sampled annually by DPR (see second graph). The number of wells sampled and the spatial coverage have varied annually in relation to budgetary constraints. Pesticide residue detections are influenced by lower detection limits and patterns of pesticide use. Because DPR targets vulnerable areas for sampling, a large proportion of the wells has detections of pesticide residues. New regulations enacted in 2004 will increase the regulated land area to approximately 4,000 square-miles with vulnerable areas determined by similarity of soil and depth to groundwater conditions as compared to those contaminated areas indicated in the first graph.

* A section is a one-square mile area based on the U.S. Geological Survey Public Land Survey coordinate system.
For more information, contact:
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More information on pesticides in groundwater is posted at:
http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/gwp/index.htm

A full discussion of pesticide indicators can be found at:
Concentrations of simazine and its breakdown products have been stable in 70 domestic wells monitored in Fresno and Tulare Counties since the inception of monitoring in 1999. Detections of simazine have not exceeded the drinking water standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4 parts per billion. Simazine breakdown products, however, were found at higher concentrations; the total residue concentration of simazine and its breakdown products in some wells have exceeded the MCL each year. This indicator will be used to measure the effect of new regulations developed to modify pesticide use.

Note: Beginning in 2003, monitoring frequency was reduced to once a year; hence, no data are presented for Fall 2003.
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A full discussion of pesticide indicators can be found at:
PERCENT OF PRODUCE WITH ILLEGAL PESTICIDE RESIDUES

From 1998 through 2003, less than 2% of produce samples had illegal pesticide residues. Of these, less than half a percent exceeded allowable levels (tolerances); a higher proportion contained residues for which allowable levels of the pesticide have not been established for the produce in which it was found.

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More information on pesticides in food is posted at:
http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pstrsmon/rsmonmnu.htm

A full discussion of pesticide indicators can be found at:
NUMBER OF REPORTED OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESSES AND INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH PESTICIDE EXPOSURES

Although an increase in reported occupational pesticide illness and injury occurred in 2002, the overall trend continues to decline over the past 14 years. The increase in 2002 cases is the result of a few incidents in which a large number of people were exposed, primarily to offsite movement of pesticides or their breakdown products.
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More information on pesticide-related illnesses and injuries is posted at:
http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/pisp.htm

A full discussion of pesticide indicators can be found at: